

Public Notice  
L-Area Southern Groundwater Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on August 16, 2006, describing the proposed remedial approach for the L-Area Southern Groundwater (LASG) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for August 16, 2006, to September 29, 2006.

DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives.

The preferred alternative for the LASG OU is Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) with long-term monitoring of the groundwater conditions in the plumes and surface water and Institutional Controls to prevent human contact with the contaminated media. This remedial alternative is considered protective of human health and the environment.

The LASG OU encompasses all of the groundwater from the L-Area groundwater divide south to L Lake. The LASG OU covers about 1250 acres and includes several historical source units. The remediated/depleted source units supported past production activities at L Reactor and other production areas, which produced nuclear materials for national defense. Past activities at the historical source units have resulted in groundwater contamination beneath LASG OU. This groundwater unit has been administratively separated from the historical source units to provide a comprehensive evaluation of groundwater beneath LASG OU.

The constituents of concern for groundwater at LASG OU are tritium, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and trichloroethylene (TCE). Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, was produced in the reactor and the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) PCE and TCE were used as solvents and degreasers. There is no remedial technology for treatment of tritium. Therefore, tritium will be remediated by allowing it to decay naturally (decay half life for tritium is 12.3 years) and through natural dilution in the groundwater. These natural processes along with natural biodegradation will also remediate the VOC's found in the groundwater.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by September 29, 2006. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation with Risk Assessment Report for this unit. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modifications are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
8911 Farrow Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29203  
Phone: (803)896-4000  
or  
SCDHEC-Region 5  
EQC Office  
206 Beaufort St., N.E.  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan should be sent to Mr. Jim Moore and Mr. Richard Haynes. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. Richard Haynes. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Jim Moore  
Washington Savannah River Company  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
jim02.moore@srs.gov  
or  
SCDHEC  
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director  
Division of Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 896-4000